

*To the Honorable General Assembly
of the Colony of Connecticut,
to be holden at Hartford in May
1776.*

**The MEMORIAL and
PETITION** of a numerous
Body of the Inhabitants of said
Colony, known by the Name
of the *United Company*.

AFTER acknowledging our sole Dependence on the great Governor of the Universe, as our only Benefactor and great Lawgiver, and manifesting our Loyalty to the grand Cause of *America*, and Zeal for the Good of this Colony in particular, We would humbly shew to your Honors, That as we would join Hand in Hand with all Men that are in Pursuit of FREEDOM, we find many Things subsisting among us, which are incompatible therewith; which in all Justice and Equity ought to be removed. And that your Honors may view them each in their distinguished Character, We your Honors humble Memorialists beg Leave to rank them in the following Order.

Firstly. We would humbly shew, that there are Laws subsisting, and now in Force in this Colony, relative to *Ecclesiastical Matters*, that are wholly subversive of the Laws of GOD ; he having reserved to himself the Government of his Church—which Prerogative he will not give to another, neither will he hold him guiltless that saith, Lo, here ! or Lo, there ! while the People are drawn away to worship an Image of their make ; which those Acts of Assembly actually do. And we humbly conceive nothing but the Frowns of Heaven to hang over us as a People, until these Images are cut down, and their Authority extirpated. Therefore your Memorialists pray, that the Matter may be immediately attended to, and the oppressed be permitted to go free.—Although the Minds of many have been quieted with a *practical Suspension* of said Acts, yet they lie as Serpents in the Grass.

Secondly. We find great Uneasiness in this Colony, on Account of several Acts of former Assemblies, wherein great Numbers of the worthy Inhabitants are *unconstitutionally taxed without being represented*, either in Society, Town, or Colony—the very Bone of Contention between Great-Britain and the Colonies. And as we have essayed strenuously and vigorously to oppose any Thing of that Nature, we are counteracting our own Plan, in suffer-

ing this Oppression to subsist in the Midst of us. Therefore, we your Memorialists humbly pray, That no Man's Liberty be taken from him, except forfeited by his own Act—Let no Man be taxed without his own Voice in it ; for similar to the above is the Cause of the present Rupture ; and we have the greatest Reason to fear a Disaffection among ourselves, if those Laws are continued. And as on Unity depends our political Salvation, so we beg that every Precaution be taken to preserve the Union absolutely necessary therefor. And as more and more Light is daily breaking forth, whereby the Line between Liberty and Bondage is discovered ; so each Individual finds himself on one or the other Side of this Line. And being conscious that the Want of *Fifty Shillings* never ought to be the Criterion which distinguisheth a Bondman from a Son of Liberty, so we hope some effectual Method may be taken to prevent the growing Uneasiness, that Liberty may run like a River thro'out our Land.

Thirdly. That as the present Situation of our Public Affairs renders the Distresses of the poorer Class of People very great, in that they cannot procure Wool and Flax sufficient to clothe themselves and Families, those Materials being engrossed into the Hands of the more wealthy at an exorbitant Price ; the Country

being drained of all coarse Cloths of foreign Manufactory, they must (except some Precaution is taken to prevent it) very soon be exposed to the Inclemency of the Weather. To prevent which, We your Memorialists beg, That the Price of Wool be stated at $1\frac{1}{3}$. and Flax at 7d. per Pound, granting a Bounty on the same of 3d. on the Pound, for Encouragement to each Man who shall produce a Certificate from the Selectmen of each Town where he resides, that he has raised and sold to some of the Inhabitants of this Colony, such Quantity of Wool or Flax; with a Penalty on any who shall take more than the Price which may be thus stated.

Fourthly. That as the undoing the heavy Burdens, and letting the oppressed go free, is the Character of a People convinced of their Duty to God and Man—for this End We your Memorialists pray, that an Alteration of another Act of a former Assembly be attended to, which bears heavy on the Poor, viz. where the Polls are prefixed in the common List at £.18 while there is a Number of the most wealthy in the Colony excluded said Poll-Tax, only because they have an Office of Profit and Honor conferred on them, namely, *Magistrates, Clergy, &c.* And as the People grow uneasy under this and the like Burdens, We humbly pray that an Average be made of the public

Burden—no one taxed without being represented—the poor bear not more than his Proportion of the Burden ;——Which we apprehend may be rectified by adding the abovesaid Polls into the List, and bringing all down to about £.6 per Head ; and that the Listers in this Colony be directed and authorised to make proper Assessments on all Estates that are by Law exempted, in particular the uncultivated or wild Land, and that according to its Value, as such Land near a Market, is better to the Owner than Money at a great Interest ; so ought to bear its Proportion of defending the same : Then shall all draw with an even Yoke in the present Struggle, which is to drive Tyranny and Oppression from our Land.

Fifthly. We would shew to your Honors, the great Advantage which has accrued from an Act of Assembly passed last Year, wherein a Prohibition was laid on Law Suits being commenced in civil Matters, and what Discoveries we have made thereby—That Debts were never discharged with more Punctuality and Expedition, than in that very Time while that Act was in Force—and that, as among Men there are some evil-minded Persons, who, rather than labour with their Hands, are seeking to take Advantage of the least Misunderstanding among Neighbours, to drive them into the Law, which is frequently attended not

only with a total Disaffection to each other, but an exceeding heavy Burden of Expences; all detrimental to the Commonwealth.— Therefore we pray, that some similar Act be made, that may prevent so great an Evil. And that no Advantage be taken by the negligent, let a Committee in each Town be authorised to transfer the Property of any Estate to the Amount of a just Debt, where a Family is not likely to suffer thereby.

Sixthly. That as some are so far lost to all Regard for the Public Good in general, being swallowed up in a Deluge of Self-Interest, that they are seeking to enhance the Prices of all Articles which have fallen into their Hands, or whereby they can advance their own private Interests, which will, if suffered to go on, have a Tendency to sink the Credit of our Money, to preserve which, nothing must be thought (at this Period) too dear.—Therefore, We your Memorialists humbly pray, that in your Wisdom you will resolve on some Method to prevent so destructive an Evil, either by fixing the Prices of the Produce of the Country, or otherwise ordering proper Inspectors, that may be faithful in their Duty, whose Business it may be to make due Information where an Offence of that Nature is committed.

WE your humble Memorialists, beg Leave further to remind your Honors, That we ap-

prehend it necessary to secure, for the Use of the Continent, all Debts due from all Importers of Goods from Great-Britain, or the Property of such as have not made Remittances thereto for Goods heretofore purchased from thence, until the present Contest shall have a final Issue, and it be known whether the Creditor be a Friend to the American Cause or not.

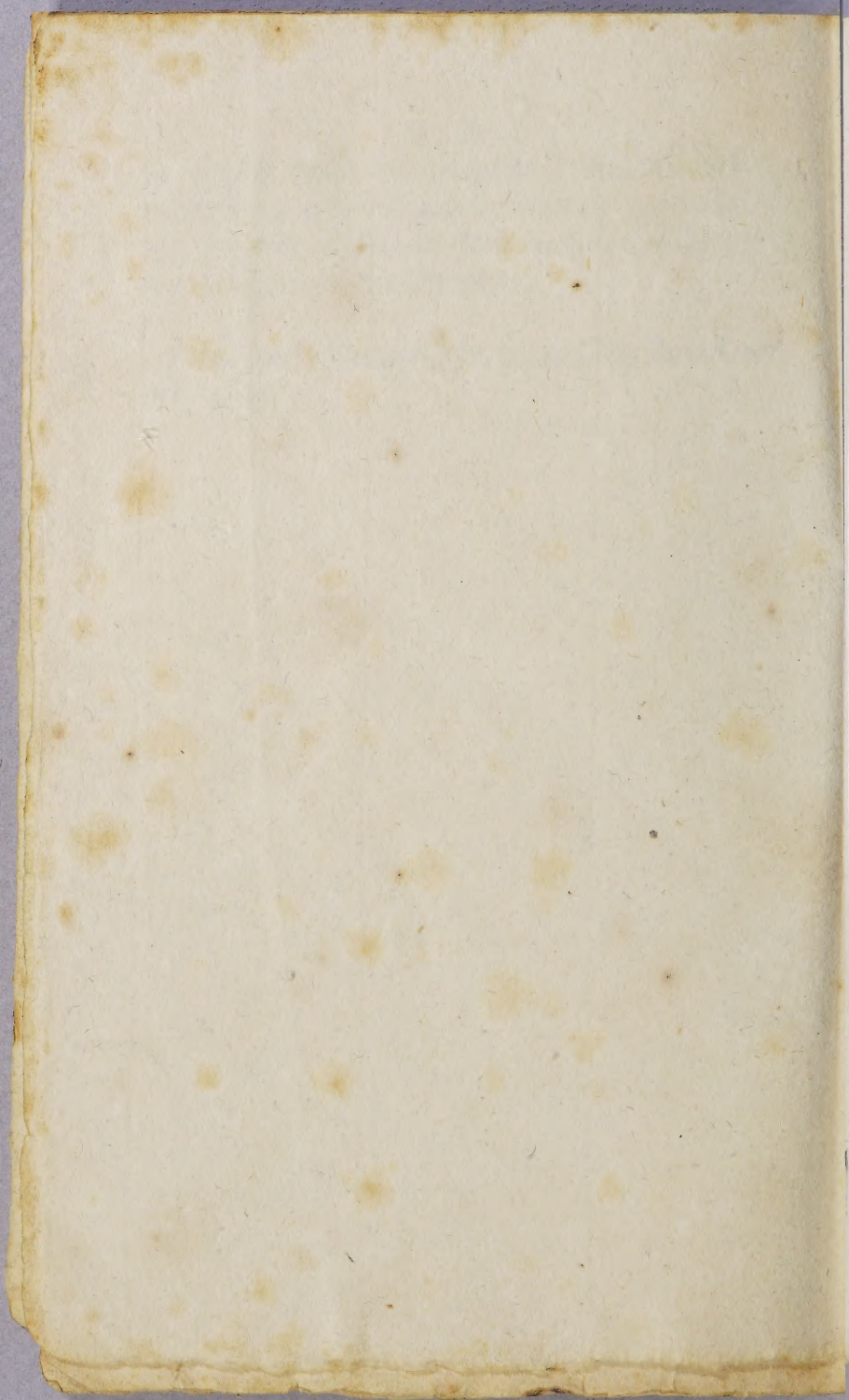
YOUR Honors will permit us to speak yet this once, and say, That as you are a political Body, created into your Power by the People, so you are answerable to them for your Doings, or omitting to do what ought to be done. And as in Time past there has been great Occasion to say and fear, that Memorials, Petitions, Remonstrances, &c. where the Subjects have been eminently oppressed, have had but a dilatory Reception and Hearing—So we are in Duty (to your Honors, to our Country, and to our Selves) bound to declare this to be no Time to delay Matters of so important a Nature, nor to take up much Time in immaterial Things, to the Neglect of the Rights of the People, or Relief of the oppressed.

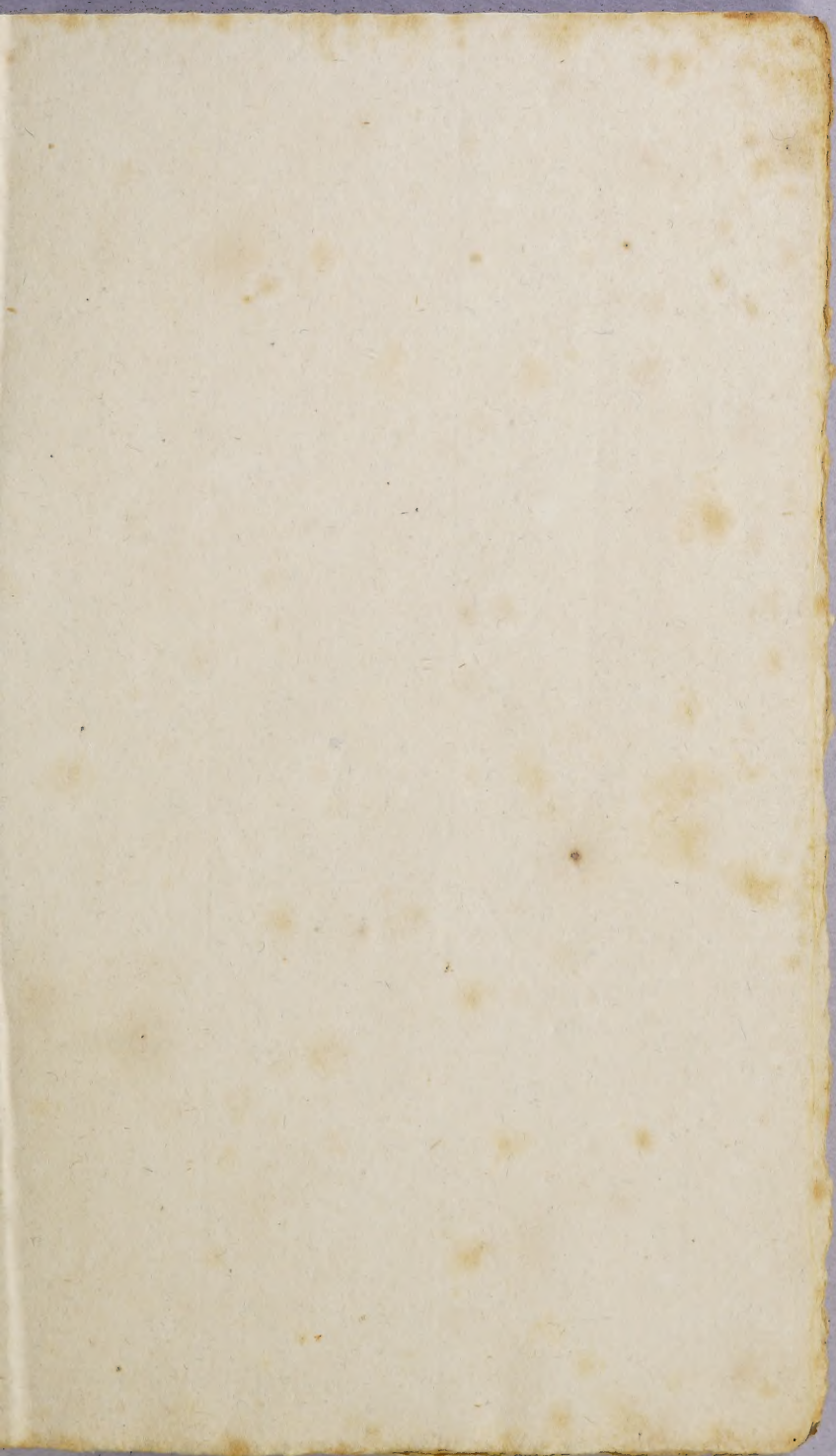
THEREFORE, We your humble Memorialists look up to you, as having sufficient Power

to grant what we request; and hope to be immediately heard and answered, agreeable to the strictest Rules of Justice and Equity, and the Rights of the PEOPLE.

And your Memorialists, as in Duty bound, will ever pray.







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J. A. Jaxon

October, 1940